

Marriage and Eunuchs

Matthew 19:1-12

“Pastor John, thank you for considering this question from me, a college student who didn’t grow up as a Christian, and someone not really convinced that I will become a Christian either.

“But here I am, surrounded by Christians at school, and I even have a few good Christian friends. I’ve asked them this, and they suggested that I ask you this, too. Here it goes.

“I often wonder why Christians get so hung up on sex and what constitutes what is forbidden or wrong,

“which is many, if not most sex acts, as far as I can tell, certainly anything and everything outside monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

“From the outside it looks like a lot of unnecessary prohibitions around something so physical, natural, instinctive, and personal.

“Can you explain why sex is such a big deal
for Christians?”

Sarah

“Sarah, you are probably more right than you know. Christians do make a big deal out of sexual behavior – probably a bigger deal than you realize.

“So, your question is a good one. Why is sex such a big deal for Christians? Why do Christians preserve the act of sexual intercourse for monogamous heterosexual marriage?

“Let me try to answer this first with a personal question for you, Sarah, and then a longer explanation from the Bible.

“Sarah, wouldn’t you say that deep inside your female personhood is a desire not to be sexually used by a man simply for his physical gratification?

“Don’t you sense that giving your most intimate self would be most beautiful and most satisfying if that man cared deeply about you as a person . . .?

“In other words, don’t you already have, as it were, written on your heart, the framework of healthy sexuality – namely, being treasured as a person in a committed relationship?

“Now, if that’s true, if I’m not putting words in your mouth, then the answer to your question is that Christians have been given by God, in the Bible,

“a full-blown theology that accounts for those very feelings you already have (at least in nugget form, in seed form).”

John Piper

Behold the King! Show and Tell

1-2
Prologue

3-7
Ministry Begins
(3-4)

Sermon on
the Mount
(5-7)

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Kingdom Breaks In
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Sermon on
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(10)

11-13
No Middle
Ground
(11-12)

Sermon in
Parables
(13)

14-18
You Are
the Christ
(14-17)

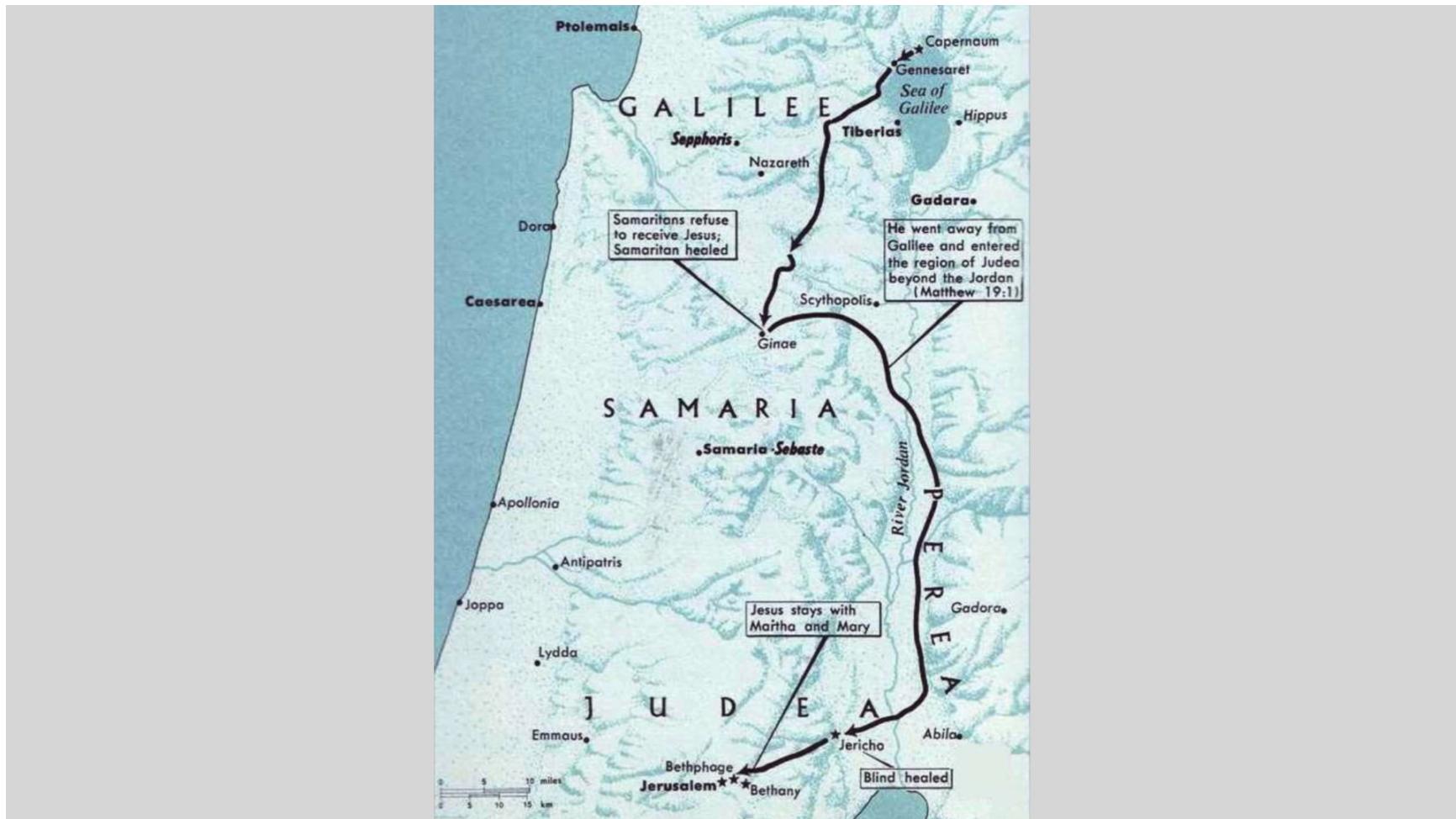
Sermon on
Relationships
(18)

19-25
Escalation
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(19-23)

Sermon on
Mt of Olives
(24-25)

26-28
Passion of
Christ
(26-28)

Great
Commission
(28:19-20)



“And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, ‘Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?’” (3)

“some indecency in her”

Deuteronomy 24:1b

Students of Shammai -
indecency = infidelity (major offense)

Students of Hillel -
indecency = irritability (major/minor offense)

Jesus's answer is . . .

1. **biblical** - He **quotes** the **Bible**.

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“Have you not read . . .” (4a)

“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.”

1 Corinthians 14:1

“Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?”

1 Corinthians 14:36

“If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

“If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.”

1 Corinthians 14:37-38

“Have you not read?” (4a)

Jesus's answer is . . .

2. **creational** - He highlights **God's original design.**

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2. **creation** - He highlights **God's original design**.

“. . . he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,” (4b)

Jesus's answer is . . .

3. **relational** - He **combines** two to **make one**.

Jesus's answer is . . .

3. **relational** - He **combines** two to **make one**.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,’

Jesus's answer is . . .

3. **relational** - He **combines** two to **make one**.

“and the two shall become one flesh”? So
they are no longer two but one flesh.” (5-6a)

Three key elements:

- a **social** bond - “leave his father and his mother” (5b)

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- a **personal** bond - “hold fast to his wife” (5b)

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- a **personal** bond - “hold fast to his wife” (5b)
hold fast = to cleave, cling,
be cemented together

- a social bond - “leave his father and his mother” (5b)
- a personal bond - “hold fast to his wife” (5b)
- a **sexual** bond - “two shall become one flesh” (5c)

Jesus's answer is . . .

4. **covenantal** - He warns against **separating God's union**.

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“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (6b)

compatibilism =

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Divine sovereignty and human responsibility
are not mutually exclusive.

“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (6b)

“What therefore **God has joined together**, let not man separate.” (6b)

Jesus's answer is . . .

5. internal - He exposes their hearts.

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5. **internal** - He **exposes** their **hearts**.

“They said to him, ‘Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?’” (7)

“He said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.’

“And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.” (8-9)

sexual immorality = hardness of heart



Jesus's answer is . . .

6. **vocational** - He elevates our **calling**.

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“to whom it is given” (11b)

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“to whom it is given” (11b)

“vocatio” = calling

“The disciples said to him, ‘If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.’” (10)

“But he said to them, ‘Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.’” (11)

“And he answered them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’”

Matthew 13:11

“For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men,

“and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.” (12)

"SWEEPING, DELIGHTFULLY READABLE." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

ECKART FRAHM

ASSYRIA

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE
WORLD'S FIRST EMPIRE



- purity

- purity
- loyalty

Three Kinds of Eunuchs:

1. Natural - Eunuchs by birth

1. Natural - Eunuchs by birth
2. Unnatural - Eunuchs by force

1. Natural - Eunuchs by birth
2. Unnatural - Eunuchs by force
3. Volitional - Eunuchs by **choice**

“This happens when, for the sake of the kingdom of heaven, they cut off the desire for physical things by means of the very sharp Word.”

Origen

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

“that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

“that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

“For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

“We don’t have a few arbitrary dos and don’ts.

“We have a beautiful picture of the love of
God embracing an undeserving people,

“providing them with everlasting happiness and a kind of marriage relationship with Jesus Christ, along with all the exquisite joy that represents.

“And in the meantime, what we do with our bodies ought to represent that precious reality.”

John Piper